

piety! The precious perfume of that alabaster box was soon lost upon the evening air of Bethany; but the perfume of a love that could never die still remains fresh as the story of the Cross. The hands that poured it out, the eyes that wept, the hair that wiped away the falling tears and the heart that beat in grateful, holy love were all after a few brief years laid to rest in the silent sepulchre of Bethany! But the name and the spirit of Mary still lives immortal on earth and immortal in heaven. Beautifully has it been written of her:

"Thou hast thy record in the monarch's hall
And on the waters of the far mid-sea;
And where the mighty mountain-shadows fall,
The Alpine hamlet keeps a thought of thee!
Where'er beneath some oriental tree,
The Christian traveler rests, where'er the child
Looks upward from the pious mother's knee,
There art thou known, where'er the Book of light
Bears hope and healing, there, beyond all blight
Is borne thy memory and all praise above!
O say, what deeds so lifted thy sweet name
Mary to that pure, silent place of fame?
One lovely offering of exceeding love."

Many daughters had done virtuously, but she of Bethany excelled them all. No sceptered monarch, no jeweled queen of earth ever won such a commendation as that given to Mary. The men of this world in their generation have delighted to hold, in proud and perpetual remembrance all those worthies of past ages who by their learning, their genius, their sufferings or their swords have battled most bravely for the rights of man, and have left the deepest marks on the sands of time.

"Patriots have toiled, and in their country's cause
Bled nobly; and their deeds as they deserve,
Receive proud recompense."

In honor of their hallowed dust and their imperishable deeds men have loved to pile monumental column higher and higher "Until it should meet the sun in his coming and the last rays of departing day should play its summit." The very spots that gave them birth, and the hallowed retreats where their ashes sleep have been rendered immortal by their presence. Their names have been linked forever with the seas and oceans on which they sailed, and with the ancient rocks, rivers and mountains where their deeds of mighty daring were done. The muse has touched her lyre with unusual melody to chant their requiem in immortal verse:

"They fell devoted but undying;
The very gale their names seemed sighing;
The waters murmured of their name;
The woods were peopled with their fame;
The silent pillar, lone and gray,
Claimed kindred with their sacred clay,
Their spirits wrapped the dusky mountain,
Their memory sparkled o'er the fountain;
The meanest rill, the mightiest river
Rolled, mingling with their fame forever."

But here is a richer recompense—a more enduring monument—a higher glory. Here, on these sacred pages is a memorial which will last when woods and waters, pillars and temples, mountains, rivers and sparkling fountains shall have passed away. The good name and unsought fame of Mary of Bethany shall out-shine and out-last all the mere heroes and heroines of earth, as the sun outshines the stars of night, and as the Divine out-lasts the human!

CHRISTIAN POSSIBILITIES

J. H. NICKELSON

Written to and read before the Pacific Conference of the Brethren church, held at Lathrop, Cal., Apr. 6, 1900.

Christian possibilities are great. Work of the ministry is the most solemn and important. The highest office to which the Christian can be exalted. Such are laborers together with God and are identified with Jesus in the great work which he shed his precious blood to accomplish. If the office is great, so the responsibilities are truly momentous. How desirable to be rightly furnished for the holy calling; and to labor in it, that we may make full proof of our ministry, that at least we may receive from the hand of the great Shepherd the crown of glory that fadeth not away! One grand object seems ever to have been kept in view by the apostle Paul. It was to exhibit Christ, to exalt him on all occasions. To make him the Alpha and Omega of all his discourses. "We preach not (saith Paul) ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves, your servants, for Jesus' sake," II Cor. 4:5. "We preach not ourselves." It signifies, first, that they were not self-appointed. "Paul called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ thru the will of God." Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by men.)

It is possible for a Christian to walk with God. Human life is often represented as a course or way, and the practices of men are spoken of as walking in these ways. We read of the way of sinners, of the scorner, of fools, of transgressors. Also the way of the upright, the ways of wisdom, etc. Also walking in connection with God, sometimes before God, as in Abraham, "walking with God." This walking with God includes, first, a true knowledge of God, of his character and laws, of his will concerning us. "This is life eternal, to know the true God."

All sound religion is based on knowledge. The Christian can not rightly worship, serve and love an unknown God. Prov. 1:7. It includes, second, reconciliation to God. "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" Paul in speaking of the Christian possibilities, says, "Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come, all are yours, ye are Christ's and Christ is God's."

The Christian's life and character are truly paradoxical. He is dead while he lives; he is full when he is empty; and when weak, then only is he strong. He is a stranger and a pilgrim, yet heir of all things; he is poor and lowly, yet his prerogatives include all things for the apostle says, "All are yours." Then let us notice, first, the characters; second, the high possibilities a Christian possesses. All true Christians are Christ's disciples. "Ye are Christ's." This is what distinguishes between the children of God and the children of the wicked one. To those who received him he gave power to become his sons, even to as many as believed on his name. John 1:12.

Second, their high and distinguished pos-

sibilities. "All are yours." They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Bread shall be given, water be sure. Riches if necessary, as in Solomon's case; dignity and power, as in the case of Joseph, Nehemiah and Daniel. The arrangements of providence are theirs.

All things work together for good. The omnipotent Ruler is their covenanted Savior and never failing friend. Laws of nature are suspended for them if necessary, as in the case of the Israelites, three Hebrew children, etc. Redeeming mercy and grace are theirs. Knowing that Christ has power to forgive sins, the precious promises are the Christian's, in all their fulness, variety, and durability, both those that relate to earth and heaven, to body and soul, to time and eternity. Christian ordinances are theirs; baptism, by which they put on Christ before men; the Lord's Supper; the holy communion, to testify to Christ's love and show forth his death till he come; the preaching of the Word, that they may be fed with spiritual milk and grow thereby; prayer, that they may come to the throne of grace for all needful good. Afflictions are the Christian's, to wean them from the world, refine their graces and make them conformable to their suffering Head. Life is the Christian's, their season of golden opportunities, of privileges, of labor and conflicts, their race course, time of stewardship, etc. Death is theirs, to conclude their trial, labors and warfare, and to introduce them to glory. Heaven is theirs, joy of heaven, society of heaven, company of heaven, employment of heaven, crown, palms, robes, etc. Eternity is theirs, the date of their happiness, the only boundary of their salvation. God is theirs, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They shall see him, enjoy him and be with him forever. "Heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ." Rom. 8:17. How rich, happy and safe are the people of God. What solemn responsibilities do these blessings involve? All belong to God, body, soul and spirit. Invite sinners to come and enjoy the Christian's portion and reward. How foolish the backslider! What infatuation to abandon "all things?" Return to the Lord thy God all ye people. Amen.

Rosena, Cal.

THE AFRICAN BOYS' CHOIR

C. ORVILLE WITTER

Of all the lectures and entertainments given at Winona this summer the two given by the African Boys were among the most popular. They sang well. The African seems to be naturally endowed with a faculty for music. The oldest of the five boys was a Bushman of fourteen years. The manager found him when a baby nearly starved and secured the privilege of taking the boy to train. The Bushmen are not black but a yellowish brown. The darkest two were Basugos and were brothers. They are quick to learn and are very active and if we do not take the color into consideration they